REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 33-40 and 45-52 remain pending in this application. Claims 41-44 have been canceled. Claims 45-52 are newly presented. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bartlett (U.S. Pat No. 6,428,386). Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Bartlett (U.S. Pat No. 6,428,386). Claims 35-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Bartlett in view of Roberts et al. (U.S. Pat No. 6,171,181). Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Bartlett in view of Adefris et al. (U.S. Pat No. 6,354,929). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.
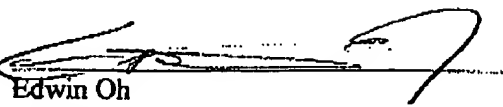
The current application has a priority date of at least March 15, 2000 (Provisional Application No. 60/189,386). Bartlett has a priority date of June 16, 2000. Accordingly, Bartlett is not prior art as against the present invention and, moreover, is incapable of teaching or suggesting the features of the present invention. Hence, the Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 33 is overcome and requests the Examiner for withdrawal of the same. Claims 34-40 depend from claim 33 and should be allowable for at least the reasons set forth above and for its own unique combination of features that are neither taught or suggested by the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that each of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any

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questions or comments, please contact the below listed attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

1/21/04
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